

ovate in the ♂, broader in the ♀, broadest before the middle, with barely a trace of a humeral prominence in the ♀, the basal margin jointly sinuate; the shallow striæ with large separated punctures; the intervals broad and with fine shallow punctation. *Sternum* rugose, but not granulate, except the mesosternum, which is finely aciculate. *Venter* with two oblique impressions on segment 1 behind the coxa in the ♂ only.

Length 8–10 mm., breadth $3\frac{3}{4}$ – $4\frac{3}{4}$ mm.

BELGIAN CONGO: Lukombe, x. 1908 (*A. Koller*).

Described from 3 ♂♂ and 3 ♀♀.

Easily distinguished from all the other known species of the genus by its striking coloration.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE I.

Fig. 1. Leurops cana, sp. n., p. 19.

Fig. 2. Pseudoblosyrus sharpi, sp. n., p. 22.

Fig. 3. Pomphus denticollis, sp. n., p. 8.

Fig. 4. Proscopus marginatus, sp. n., p. 13.

Fig. 5. Protoctrophus spinicollis, sp. n., p. 17.

Fig. 6. Bradyhamon swalei, sp. n., p. 10.

Fig. 7. Cychrotanus ellipticus, sp. n., ♂, p. 25.

Fig. 8. Synechops irregularis, sp. n., p. 24.

II.—On *Lacerta praticola*, *Eversm.* By L. A. LANTZ and O. CYRÉN.

BOETTGER remarks, in his account of the reptiles collected in the Talysh by G. Radde and H. Leder*, that the two specimens of *Lacerta praticola* examined by him differ from Western Caucasian specimens in having five pairs of chin-shields instead of six, two instead of three forming a median suture. The author thinks it would be possible to establish a local variety, should this character be found to be constant.

This is indeed the case, as appears from our examination of a larger material collected in the same country. We found only isolated specimens—from the Talysh † as well as from the Western Caucasus ‡—with five chin-shields on

* Radde, 'Fauna u. Flora d. südwestl. Caspigebietes,' Leipzig, 1886, p. 37.

† One specimen out of 21.

‡ One specimen out of 43.

one side and six on the other; in such case the median suture is formed by two shields on one side and three on the other. As the two forms differ also in other characters, such anomalous specimens can, however, easily be identified; therefore the separation of *L. praticola* into two subspecies seems to be justified.

Eversmann's description and figure of the type-specimen from Piatigorsk* are not clear enough to settle the question, which of the two subspecies must be considered as the typical. A full description of the species was first given by Kessler †, who examined thirteen specimens from the Kuban district, Piatigorsk, valley of R. Bielaia, and Ananur, two of which formerly were in Eversmann's collection. Kessler indicates six pairs of chin-shields, the first three forming a median suture. Relying on this, we intended to describe a Caspian subspecies, believing the Western Caucasian form to be the typical one.

Thanks to the kindness of MM. K. Derjugin and P. Nesterov we have been enabled to revise the collection of the Petrograd University. We found there several of Kessler's specimens, and amongst them one labelled "Piatigorsk, leg. Eversmann." We must admit that Kessler neglected to examine the chin-shields of this very specimen, as it has only five pairs of them and agrees in every respect with the Talysh *L. praticola*. It cannot, however, be considered as the type-specimen, because it has a normal interparietal and occipital, while Eversmann indicates these shields as separated by an accessory one.

Both the type-specimen and the specimen preserved in the Petrograd University are from the same locality; other material from Piatigorsk, Essentuki, and Kislovodsk ‡ is kindly examined for us by M. S. Tsarevski. All these show only five pairs of chin-shields, two of them forming a median suture. Therefore it is undeniably the Oriental subspecies which occurs at Piatigorsk and surrounding localities that must be considered as the typical *L. praticola*.

It is of great interest that *L. praticola praticola* seems to be confined to the Caspian Sea basin §, while the western

* *Lacertæ Imperii Rossici* (Moscow, 1834).

† Journey in Transcaucasia, St. Petersburg, 1878, p. 156 (in Russian).

‡ Coll. Acad. Petr. Nos. 5273, 6861, and 7900.

§ We examined specimens from Piatigorsk, Mount Il near Vladislavkur, Lagodekhi, Kala-Dugna, valley of R. Astara-tshai, Elburz Mountains between Astara and Ardebil, Shafe-rud near Enzeli.

subspecies is found practically only in countries draining towards the Black Sea*—a fact which induced us to choose for the latter the name *pontica*. Judging from several specimens from Mehadia †, the Hungarian *L. praticola* also belongs to this form.

The two subspecies may be distinguished by the following characters :—

1. *Lacerta praticola praticola*, Eversm.

Head and limbs comparatively short. Proportion, $\frac{\text{length of pileus}}{\text{length of head and body}}$: 0.22-0.23-0.24 ‡ in the ♂ (8 spec.) and 0.18-0.20-0.23 in the ♀ (10 spec.). Proportion, $\frac{\text{length of fore limb}}{\text{length of head and body}}$: 0.30-0.31-0.33 in the ♂ (8 spec.) and 0.26-0.28-0.33 in the ♀ (10 spec.). Proportion, $\frac{\text{length of hind limb}}{\text{length of head and body}}$: 0.45-0.48-0.52 in the ♂ (8 spec.) and 0.39-0.43-0.49 in the ♀ (10 spec.).

Row of *superciliary granules* incomplete and generally reduced to a few granules. Occipital generally very small, narrower than, or as broad as, the interparietal, and penetrating only a little between the parietals. Always a single *postnasal*, in contact with the internasal. *Masseteric shield* moderate, rarely reaching the first supratemporal, and separated from the tympanic by 2, seldom by 1 or 3, rows of rather small temporals. 5, seldom 6, *lower labials*. 5 pairs of *chin-shields*, the first 2 forming a median suture. On a line between the suture of the chin-shields and the collar 16-19-22 *gular scales* (21 spec.). *Dorsal scales* comparatively broad and short, rather feebly keeled, and imbricate; in a transverse row across the middle of the body 35-39-43 scales (19 spec.). In the ♂ 26-26-27 (8 spec.), in the ♀ 28-29-30 (10 spec.), transverse rows of ventral plates.

2. *Lacerta praticola pontica*, subsp. n.

Head and limbs comparatively long. Proportion, $\frac{\text{length of pileus}}{\text{length of head and body}}$: 0.23-0.24-0.24 in the ♂ (16 spec.)

* The specimens examined are from Georgievsko-Osetinskoie (Kuban Valley), Novorossiisk, Sotshi, mountains near Adler, Gagry, Gudaút, Sukhumi, Ananur (valley of R. Aragva); the latter locality only belongs to the Caspian Sea basin.

† Coll. Acad. Petr. No. 9814.

‡ The middle number means the average.

and 0.20-0.21-0.24 in the ♀ (12 spec.). Proportion, $\frac{\text{length of fore limb}}{\text{length of head and body}}$: 0.28-0.33-0.34 in the ♂ (16 spec.) and 0.26-0.29-0.31 in the ♀ (12 spec.). Proportion, $\frac{\text{length of hind limb}}{\text{length of head and body}}$: 0.47-0.51-0.54 in the ♂ (16 spec.) and 0.40-0.45-0.49 in the ♀ (12 spec.).

Row of *superciliary granules* generally not much reduced, often complete. *Occipital* comparatively large, generally broader than the interparietal, and penetrating rather widely between the parietals. *Postnasal* generally not reaching the internasal; sometimes two superposed postnasals, the upper small, in contact with the internasal. *Masseteric shield* large or very large, almost always in contact with the first supratermporal, and separated from the tympanic by one large scale or two superposed rather large temporals. 6, seldom 7, *lower labials*. 6 pairs of *chin-shields*, the first 3 forming a median suture. On a line between the suture of chin-shields and the collar, 14-17-19 *gular scales* (43 spec.). *Dorsal scales* comparatively narrow and elongate, rather strongly keeled, and imbricate; in a transverse row across the middle of the body 32-37-41 scales (43 spec.). In the ♂ 22-25-26 (23 spec.), in the ♀ 26-28-30 (18 spec.), transverse rows of *ventral plates*.

In reading the description of *L. vivipara stenolepis*, Nik.*, we could not find any character to separate this form from *L. praticola*. This was confirmed on examining the type-specimen, a very large ♀ † offering the anomaly mentioned above, i. e. 5-6 chin-shields. By the other characters of scaling, and especially the rather small masseteric shield, the number of superciliary granules reduced to 3 on each side, it appears as a well-characterized *L. praticola praticola*, which cannot be confounded with *L. vivipara*.

Recently Nikolski described a new species from Sotshi, *L. colchica* ‡, which seems also to be closely allied to *L. praticola*. The author was so kind as to send us the type-specimen for closer examination. It is a typical *L. vivipara*, Jacq., entirely agreeing with some specimens from the Government of Moscow used for comparison. *L. vivipara* has never been recorded from Transcaucasia, and it is very doubtful that it occurs in that country; probably some error has taken place in labelling this specimen.

* 'Herpetologia caucasica,' Tiflis, 1913, p. 54.

† Coll. Acad. Petr. No. 7203, from Mount Il near Vladikavkar.

‡ 'Fauna of Russia, Reptiles,' i. (Petrograd, 1915).